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# PIONEER Attempt to Classify the Insane of Pennsylvania by Legal Enactment April 13, 1881.

Bill introduced in Senate by Senator  
McKnight, known as Senate Bill No.  
207 to regulate the commitment of In-  
sane criminals.        ::        ::        ::

*BY*

W. J. McKNIGHT, M. D.

BROOKVILLE, PA., JANUARY, 1916

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This generation is and must be ignorant of the wonderful improvement made in the last fifty years in the care and treatment of the insane. When I was a boy a menagerie of wild beasts was a paradise in comparison with a lunatic asylum. But about the year 1800 a Dr. Pinel, a Frenchman with a heart alive to pity like the old style doctor had, undertook the work of reform in these "mad houses." Familiar with this historical fact, and being a medical man, I was interested in this subject. In 1881 when I was sworn in as one of Pennsylvania's fifty state senators, I looked around for some useful legislative work to do, and, after I received my "railroad passes," I traveled to and from our asylums looking through them and supping and dining with the officials. During these associations and from other sources, I conceived the idea that classification of the insane was greatly needed, and to insure the enactment of such a law I introduced one in the senate modest and moderate in its requirements. This I did to save expense and prevent opposition. But in this act I met the fate of all who antagonize ignorance and prejudice, for

"Truth would you teach to save a sinking land

All shun, none aid, and few understand."

On the 23rd day of March, 1881, I introduced the bill for the classification of the insane as follows, (See page 691, Legislative Journal.) viz:

An Act, entitled, An Act to regulate the commitment of the criminal insane, insane convicts and other dangerous lunatics to one of the Insane Hospitals of the State, and the management thereof of said hospitals.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives

of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Board of Public Charities shall have the power, and are hereby required immediately after the passage of this Act to prepare a wing of, or to organize a ward, or a sufficient number of wards, in one of the insane hospitals of the State (supported by the State) for the accommodation of the criminal insane, insane convicts and other dangerous lunatics sentenced to said hospital, as well for those who may hereafter be arraigned before court and acquitted on the ground of insanity, and the said ward or wards so set apart are to be under the same management and superintendence as the other wards of said institution.

When the bill came before the senate on third reading, I made the following remarks, viz:

Mr. President, I desire to say a few words in favor of the important measure now before this honorable senate. I beg leave to state that the bill was conceived in the interest of unfortunate humanity, and if its provisions are inadequate to the proposed relief intended, no senator will deplore such an unfortunate result more than myself. Further, I desire the bill to be criticized, and amended if need be, by senators abler than myself; aye, if possible, perfected so that it may accomplish, in full, its humanitarian objects. And, senators, if in your criticisms you should deem it necessary to be severe upon the phraseology, even to personal reflections, I will now assure you in the language of Shakespeare, by way of invocation, "O let me not be mad, not mad, sweet Heaven;

Keep me in temper; I would not be mad."

Senators, I well recognize the fact that only through investigation, criticism and agitation; that only through positive enthusiasm on the one side, and the hostile lens of opposition on the other, can a real solid knowledge be obtained by which to erect a truthful, perfect structure. There should be no haste in legislation.

"Every wise observer knows,  
Every watchful gazer sees,  
Nothing grand or beautiful grows  
Save by gradual slow degrees.  
Steadily, steadily, step by step,  
Up the venturous builders go,  
Carefully placing stone on stone,  
Thus the loftiest temples grow."

In this law we want a solid base, we want truth; we want the wisdom of ages; we want everything that will tend to perfection, because it is designed to protect, care for and if possible, to rescue helpless men and helpless women from indignities now suffered, emblematic of a barbarous age.

Mr. President, the dark ages are past; we live in an age of light; we live when steam and the iron horse have annihilated space and time; we live when the lightning from heaven has been chained by a Franklin and forced by a Morse and a Field to carry our greetings of business and love, not only upon the land but underneath the seas also. Indeed, we look around us in wonder at the progress of mechanics, agriculture, science and art. There appears to be no end to our achievements in intellectual advancement. We live in the very light of "God's face bending low down" and guiding us in the solving of difficult intellectual problems. And under this bright light let us pause for a short time to examine and see what we have done, what we are doing, and what we can do for the insane—the insane

convict and the criminal insane. I would say, in candor, little has been done in the past. But we are doing a great work now, and as much as I admire the progress of the present, yet I confidently expect in the future greater progress, more gigantic achievements in the restoration to reason, and in the elevation to manhood and womanhood of fallen and depraved humanity, than the most hopeful could anticipate or the greatest enthusiast could imagine. For ages the insane were believed to be possessed of the devil, and their management by Christian civilization was in conformity to this belief. You may imagine the treatment. I cannot describe it. It is only within the memory of our own lives that the results of this belief have been entirely eradicated. And who among us since the attainment of that result is ignorant of the wonderful improvements made in the last quarter of a century. I assure you from an examination of history that Barnum's menagerie of wild beasts is today a paradise compared to a lunatic prison of two hundred years ago. If we portray to ourselves, low, damp, and infected dungeons, without light or air, fitly designated cells, alive with human beings, naked or covered with rags, always furious or nearly so, enclosed in living tombs until death came as a relief. Believed to be incurable, abandoned by their relatives, deprived of medical care, reeking in their own filth, attended by brutal keepers, horrified beyond expression in their sane moments at these surroundings, sufferings and inhumanities, with no voice of brotherhood or love ever greeting them, with no music but the rattling of their own chains; and I might enumerate to you a thousand more inhumanities, had I time and capacity,

and then indeed you would have but an imperfectly photographed view of an insane prison of the seventeenth century. But in 1752, a number of Pennsylvanians residing in the city of Philadelphia, with hearts alive to pity, like angels of mercy, petitioned the legislature of this state, then in session, for an act to incorporate "a small provincial hospital," for the suitable care and treatment of the insane, and other sick persons. Said act was duly passed, and two thousand pounds appropriated to assist in, as they declared "a good work acceptable to God and all the good people they represented." Under this charter a private house was secured until a suitable structure could be erected, and on the 11th day of February, A. D., 1752, the first patients were admitted for treatment. On the 28th day of May, A. D., 1755, the corner stone of the hospital proper was laid, and Benjamin Franklin prepared the inscription for it, which read as follows:

In the year of Christ  
MDCCLV,  
George the Second happily reigning,  
(For he sought the happiness of his  
people),

Philadelphia flourishing,  
(For its inhabitants were public  
spirited).

This building,  
By the bounty of the Government  
And of many private persons,  
Was piously founded  
For the relief of the sick and  
miserable.

"May the God of Mercies  
Bless the Undertaking."

Thus Pennsylvania Hospital had its origin. The "God of Mercies" has blessed the undertaking. It stands today a monument of Pennsylvania pride and is a home, a real home in

every sense to hundreds of "the wildest, the tamest, the happiest and the gloomiest of unfortunate mortals." It is an unrestrained, unfettered, carpeted, pictured, sofaed, concerted, libraried home, where intellect and love commands obedience.

Senators, will you permit a digression? Will you permit a little state pride to well up at this point in my argument?

It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that the first Continental Congress met. It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that the great Magna Charta of our liberties was written, signed, sealed and delivered to the world. It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that the fathers declared "that all men are born free and equal, and are alike entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that the grand old Republican party was organized, and the declarations of our fathers reaffirmed and proclaimed anew to the world. It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that congress created our national emblem, the stars and stripes; and it was upon the soil of Pennsylvania that fair women made that flag in accordance with the resolution of congress. It was upon the soil of Pennsylvania that our flag was first unfurled to the breeze, and from that day to this that grand old flag has never been disgraced nor defeated. It was upon the Delaware river of Pennsylvania that the first steamer was launched. It was in Philadelphia that the first national bank opened its vaults to commerce. It was upon the soil of Pennsylvania that Colonel Drake first drilled into the bowels of the earth and obtained the oil that now makes the "bright light" of every fireside "from Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand." It was on the soil of Penn-



sylvania that the first Christian Bible society in the new world was organized. It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that the first school for the education and maintenance of soldiers' orphans was erected. It was on the soil of Pennsylvania that the first medical college for the new world was established. And now, Mr. President, I say to you that it was permitted to Pennsylvania intelligence, to Pennsylvania charity, to Pennsylvania people, to erect on Pennsylvania soil, with Pennsylvania money, the first insane institution, aided and encouraged by a state, in the history of the world.

In the bill which is now before us Pennsylvania is simply expected to take another advance step in the march of civilization. It is not a hasty step. It has been well considered, and is heartily approved by all those in the state having in charge insane convicts and the criminal insane. In truth, I have letters from nearly every experienced person in the commonwealth urging the passage of this law. What, then, you ask, will we accomplish by this enactment? To this I reply: A reasonable, a necessary classification of the insane. Not a perfect classification, but a better one than we have at present. Indeed, in the opinion of those most capable of judging and advising on the subject, the insane should be sub-divided into three great classes, as follows:

First. The epileptics.

Second. The ordinary insane.

Third. The convict, criminal and other dangerous lunatics. Each class to have a separate hospital and each hospital to have a separate management. But as the world moves in cycles, and "step by step the builders go," this bill looking to the future only asks at this time the separation of the convict and criminal from the

other classes of the insane.

And why is this separation asked, you inquire. I will better reason with you on this subject by reading one of many letters addressed and received by me since the introduction of this bill. The letter I present is from Dr. J. A. Reed, of Dixmont hospital, dated March 24, 1881:

"This subject is one of vast importance to all of the insane, and I hope that you will be able through this bill, to accomplish such legislation as will not only ameliorate the condition of the innocent insane, but will place the 'insane convict' in a position where judicious care and treatment will result in a greater amount of good to him. In considering this subject it must be remembered that there are two classes of insane persons, either of which it is manifestly improper to place in an ordinary hospital for the insane. I allude to the insane convict who has become insane while undergoing punishment for crime, or who from any extraordinary cause, may have been deemed by the courts unfit for admission to a hospital, and are now confined in the penitentiaries and jails of the commonwealth, as well as to that other class who have been acquitted or not prosecuted on criminal charges for violent acts on the ground of insanity, such as homicide, arson, burglary, etc.

"It is a common feeling that a compulsory association with criminals is neither pleasant nor desirable. The insane are as sensitive as other persons, and when compelled to mingle with those convicted of crimes of greater or less degree feel themselves degraded and there is engendered such a feeling of discontent that recoveries are thereby retarded if not wholly prevented. Convicts are bad by nature and are made worse by disease;

appropriate at that time, and in that place, it would have been to proclaim anew and kept the fact before the public, that to America belongs the distinguished honor of appointing the first female physician to an insane asylum. Said appointment was made by Massachusetts in 1869, followed by Iowa, appointing Dr. Margaret A. Cleaves, in 1873, and Pennsylvania joined hands with Massachusetts in the east and Iowa in the west in the year 1880, by two appointments, one for Norristown and one for Harrisburg. Dr. Cleaves, of our state hospital, says:

"Who can be better fitted for this office than the womanly physician? Who brings, in addition to her special knowledge of their disease, a woman's quick insight, clear intuitions, kind and sympathetic nature, the being like with them, and capable, therefore of entering into and appreciating many of their thoughts and feelings. 'The grief that does not speak,' whether real or fancied, 'that whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break,' is not less true in many cases of disease than in health, and the individual who can invite the fullest, freest confidence, will be the one best calculated to do the patient good. The superintendent's hands are full—not always with the medical and moral care of his patients, but with the duties of steward, farmer, civil engineer, architect, and general executive officer.

"The mental and moral fitness of woman for the management of insane women is beyond cavil. Their fidelity and devotion to their profession cannot be questioned. Their ability to successfully manage and control similar institutions in all their departments has been proven. We may instance the woman's prison at Sherborn, Massachusetts, and the woman's

prison and girl's reformatory in Indiana, both successfully managed by women. This special field is not without its pioneers. In the Worcester hospital, Massachusetts, a woman was long and successfully employed as assistant physician. In March of this year (1879) a lady was appointed, by competitive examination, assistant physician at the Cook county hospital for the insane, Chicago."

Thus far but seven (7) hospitals are employing female physicians; and at present but ten (10) professional women are thus engaged, all of whom are American institutions.

We have ample facilities, Mr. President, for our insane. I read from the report of the Board of Public Charities, for the year 1880, page 2:

"Hospitals for the care and treatment of this unfortunate class have been provided to a large extent. When the Warren and Southeastern hospitals shall be fully ready for the reception of patients, sufficient accommodations will have been provided for thirty-two hundred and fifty (3,250) patients. The present number maintained in the state asylums, including Dixmont, is about fifteen hundred. Six hundred of the inmates of the insane department of the Philadelphia alms house will probably be transferred to state institutions, making the entire insane population to be supported in the state hospitals twenty-one hundred (2,100), and leaving unoccupied wards for eleven hundred and fifty of such as may be transferred from other alms houses, and those retained by friends. The provision for the indigent class of the insane by the state is, therefore, not only sufficient, but in excess of present wants."

Classification is what we now need. Senators, enact this law; it is in the interest of economy. It will not cre-

ate any new board. It will better classify; it will lessen attendants; and even if it should not, we have no right to contaminate the wards of the state. Bear in mind that the insane are not all raving maniacs, that many of them are rational for hours, days, weeks and months at a time. I appeal to you, then, what must be their humiliation to find themselves forced to associate and companion with criminals of every dye. Remember they are helpless, they are weak, they are children; we are strong; and remember that we have the assurance from one who is all wise and all powerful that when we—

"Are weak and wretched, by our sins  
Weighed down distressed,  
Then it is Gods great mercy holds us  
Closest, loves us best."

Fellow Senators, as the representatives of our four million two hundred and eighty-two thousand (4,282,000) people, as the representatives of the great state of Pennsylvania, let us rise on this occasion to the dignity of duty; to the greatness of opportunity, and to the justness of responsibility. Let us prove by our legislative acts that we, in recognition of God's mercy to us, will hold sacred and will in the future better care for, protect and defend the rights, the sensibilities and the interests of Pennsylvania's defenceless and distressed children.

The bill passed finally in the senate on Wednesday, April 20th; yeas 33, nays none. See page 1225, Legislative Journal. Bill was referred to committee on Judiciary General in the house on April 21st. See page 1327, Legislative Journal. When reported to the house the bill became House 695. On Wednesday, June 8, 1881, it was read before the house the third time and on final passage it was defeated, the vote being yeas 64, nays

54. See page 2482, Legislative Journal.

The reason I did not reintroduce the act in 1883, was this, I confidently expected by my record to be returned to the senate for a second term. In this I was disappointed, but I had the above speech printed in large numbers and mailed copies to each governor, the Board of Public Charities, and to the speakers and officers of the legislature, hoping someone would take it up, as Speaker Wallton did ten or fifteen years after I had incepted, originated and endeavored by law to make the classification. In reviewing the origin of and the classification of Pennsylvania's insane, the Sunday North American of January 10, 1915, endeavors to give the entire credit of the present classification of the insane to Cadwalader Biddle. This paper of that issue says, "In the late eighties Cadwalader Biddle, a retired business man of some means, began urging the state to build an asylum which would harbor the criminal insane. He said that it was not right to keep these vicious prisoners in association with harmless patients." I commenced it as stated above, in 1881, never having met or talked with Biddle. Biddle had seen my speech for I sent every two years to him copies of it, the North American and to every speaker of the house and president of the senate, and to the officials of each asylum and penitentiary, until the complete and final passage of the present classification in an enlarged shape by Speaker Wallton in 1905, twenty-four years after I had incepted, conceived and made an effort to enact this classification. We have now Wernersville for the chronic insane, authorized by legislature on June 22, 1891 and first inmates received July 21, 1894; Polk, for the epilep-



they are constantly seeking opportunities to escape, annoying the other more quiet and innocent patients, and frequently, by their violence, endangering the lives of others with whom they may be associated. They are victims to the worst forms of delusions, and are constantly endeavoring to create a general discontent, and teach those, who, by misfortune, have been sent to the asylums for treatment, profanity, mean tricks and petty misdemeanors.

"To associate any considerable number of criminals with others is in a limited sense to make an institution designed for the safe keeping and cure of unfortunate persons a school of crime, and to mingle those whose lives have been stained with theft, burglary, arson and murder with those whose lives have ever been pure, is a gross injustice. There are very few of the insane convicts who do not attempt to escape, and those who attempt it usually succeed; often their previous education has been in this direction, and this also makes their recapture, when once at large, more difficult.

"The rogue even when insane, if confined in a hospital, recognizes in every enlargement of his liberty, intended to promote his comfort and his cure, an additional facility to escape. The danger to the community and the trouble to the hospital that are the direct result of the escape of convicts is undoubtedly the real basis of many minor inconveniences and greater restriction of liberty which their presence occasions in the ordinary hospitals for the insane.

"The association of the convict insane with those drawn from the community at large is not only an inconvenience and leads to difficulty in the management of the ordinary hospital,

but it is a gross wrong, and the state has no right to compel its honest citizens, sane or insane, to associate with criminals. Yet under the laws that now exist, and as the hospitals are now constructed and conducted, this undesirable association of patients must exist.

"If these two dangerous classes were removed from the hospitals, or confined in wards especially adapted for their care and custody, the ordinary insane would in all respects be better off; much more freedom could be granted to them, and there would be less danger of violence than there is at present. Associated as these classes necessarily are in some of the halls and airing courts, constantly watched and guarded as they are by attendants, the danger of violence is not so great as it might be, but it would be wrong to say that there is no risk.

"What I wish to impress on you is the fact that the restrictions now placed upon the movements of the insane patients, which grows out of a necessity of safely providing for these dangerous classes, could be at once modified, and, in a great measure, removed, if the separation which you propose could be accomplished. Such a separation need not affect unfavorably the condition of those dangerous classes; for it is contemplated that such special provisions would be made for them as would insure kind care and treatment, within restricted limits, with probably more freedom than it would be safe to give them under other circumstances. The hospitals, as they are now constructed, are not intended for the custody of the insane convict, and the result is they frequently escape, and expose the community to a repetition of the crimes for which they were convicted and

imprisoned. The community, then, is entitled to protection by the transfer of all such dangerous insane persons to strong and secure wards in some hospital from which escape is impossible.

"As the state seems unwilling to construct a hospital separate and distinct for the custody of the convict and dangerous classes of the insane, your suggestion is made that several wards in one of the hospitals now in process of construction shall be so modified, arranged and equipped for the reception, custody and proper medical treatment of all such insane persons as may be sent to the hospital, so provided by orders of court or transferred from other hospitals to it by the Board of Public Charities.

"The reasons for so doing may be summarized, as follows:

"First. The character of such insane persons requires greater safeguards both as to the construction of the buildings and the administration of the institution, in order to secure them from escape and from injuring other inmates, and such safeguards when applied to patients who do not need them are injurious.

"Second. Inmates not belonging to these classes, and whose insanity may be limited to melancholy or some mild form of disease, and by whom external relations are so fully appreciated, find the association with such classes disagreeable.

"Third. There seems to be no good reason for providing one receptacle for insane convicts and another for insane persons who in a state of insanity have committed or who are predisposed to violent acts, such as homicide, arson, burglary, etc.

"Fourth. The same safeguard as to construction and administration are required for both classes.

"Fifth. The insane patients of homicidal propensities, who are not convicts, have a form of insanity in which they would not in many cases be offended or rendered uncomfortable by the association with the insane convicts.

"Sixth. The two classes are often not separated by any principle of moral responsibility, as the insane convict is frequently one who was suffering at the time of the criminal act under a disability which the courts failed to detect at the trial, for want of a proper defense, or because the mental disorder was still latent.

"Seventh. Insanity suspends punishment based upon previous conduct, and there is, therefore, no reason for the separation based on moral grounds, or for any separation except such as is founded upon the actual aversion of other inmates to such association.

"This aversion is sufficiently considered by not having the wards in which they are confined with a penal institution, but in or near to one of the hospitals for the insane.

"Eighth. For these reasons it is better that proper provision should be made for the convict insane, as well as for those who have committed or are predisposed to homicide or other violent acts, in buildings or apartments properly arranged and made secure for their custody and treatment in or near to some one of the hospitals for the insane."

I read also from the Harrisburg Patriot, of March 31, 1881, as follows:

#### INSANE CONVICTS—THE STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES RECOMMEND CERTAIN REMOVALS

"The recent double tragedy in the Eastern Penitentiary, which was attributed to the insanity of the man who murdered his companion and

committed suicide, prompted the State Board of Charities to make a speedy and thorough examination into the mental condition of the ten or twelve other convicts who have shown symptoms of a similar affliction. The board have concluded their labors and recommend the removal of four of the convicts to an asylum for the insane, but so far as the others were concerned the board thought that they were well cared for in their present quarters, especially those who have a mania for killing people. It was further recommended that the state legislature make provisions for two hundred insane convicts."

I read also from a special report of the Board of Public Charities in answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of January 31st, 1874.

"As to the poor and 'criminal insane,' so called, confined in jails and penitentiaries, it may be said that about two hundred to three hundred are annually sent to county prisons, where they are detained until arrangements can be effected for their transfer to county almshouses or state hospitals, but a small portion being received into these latter institutions. It frequently happens, however, that some of the indigent and friendless are suffered to remain in these penal abodes. These defenceless unfortunates are suffered to rave in the dungeons of a prison, there to be classed with robbers and murderers.

"An examination of the records of the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries discloses a state of things very similar to the above. It is shown that the mental health of nearly all of the twenty convicts in confinement in the penitentiaries was impaired on admission. Some were confirmed lunatics; none could be said to be strict-

ly responsible or rational beings. The present condition of nearly all is described to be one of mental imbecility; some of them are mere mental and physical wrecks. That the cells of penitentiaries and jails are not the proper places for the custody and treatment of this class of the insane will not be denied."

I also read from the Sixth Biennial report of the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities of the state of Illinois, for the year 1880, pages 90 and 91.

"We have heretofore repeatedly urged upon the General Assembly the importance of such provision. In our last report we said:

"An evil which has for many years been the subject of complaint in this state, is the enforced association in our hospital wards of the criminal and non criminal insane.

"This state greatly needs an institution especially adapted to the keeping of insane convicts. The general hospital for the insane is not a fit place for them. Their presence is felt to be a reproach and an insult to the other patients. Neither is the ordinary prison cell a proper place for them. Under our present system, they are taken from the prison and sent to the hospital, a course of procedure which encourages malingering in the penitentiary, and promotes the escape of prisoners by relieving them from prison walls and prison discipline. The prison officers feel the danger of deception, and postpone the commitment of the patient until his insanity is so far developed as to be beyond question, thus diminishing the chance of recovery. They are also liable to use severe measures with prisoners really insane, but suspected of skillful imitation of the insane manifestations, and thus be guilty of unintentional



cruelty.

"The association of convict insane with other insane persons in the wards is admitted, on all hands to be a great injury to the well-being of the patients. The reports of superintendents throughout the country are full of observations to this effect which we need not here quote." I also read from the report of the commissioners of the Illinois State penitentiary at Joliet, for the year 1880, Page 24:

"The commingling of the two classes in one common asylum calls forth frequent protests from the superintendents of these institutions, as well as from the friends of the citizen insane, for whose benefit these asylums were originally intended. It seems to me that the authorities should not turn a deaf ear to these complaints, for they are well grounded, and address themselves with unusual force to those who are brought in constant contact with the criminal insane."

I might further tax the patience of this body by reading extracts from other reports and letters. I might read from Dr. Diller; from Drs. Gerhart and Cleaves; from Drs. Case and Bennett; from the doctor in charge of Blockley hospital; from Warden Wright, of the Western, and from Warden Townsend, of the Eastern Penitentiary, all of whom have written to me, and are enthusiastic in favor of this bill, and to all of whom, in this connection, I offer my sincere thanks for their sympathy and cooperation.

And now, Mr. President, although I again acknowledge that wonders are being accomplished through the present management of the insane, yet I do claim that if a proper classification be made, as is contemplated by this bill, then a better treatment and management will follow as a rational

result, and I confidently predict a new era to arise in the treatment and the management of the insane, honorable alike to Christianity, civilization, philosophy and humanity.

We must take this step; we must enact this law. I am proud to say that we have done well; that we are now doing better; but I say earnestly we must still improve.

Those of you who visited a few days ago, in connection with the members of the house, the Norristown hospital, must have observed its admirable construction and management, and those of you who heard the remarks there made by distinguished men, men of experience in what they said, cannot help but be inspired with the same inspiration that there seized me, viz: to try, in my humble way, to accomplish something good, something tangible for this unfortunate class.

Mr. President, we must be liberal minded, we must uproot and destroy our prejudices by inquiry and examination. Conservatism must give way. I was deeply impressed, while at Norristown, with fervor that grayhaired orators used in advocacy of liberal advancement in the management of the insane. I was pleased to hear the universal approval and testimony in favor of the admission of female physicians to the care of female wards in our state institutions. Managers and superintendents gave eager testimony to the happy changes and great benefits from the employment of said physicians. Those who had been most bitter in their opposition had now, from experience and observation, changed into the warmest advocates of the propriety, expediency and justice of what to them had seemed to be a silly experiment, but what now had proved to be just the one thing desired. How



tics, authorized by legislature June 3, 1893. First inmates received April 27, 1897; and Farview, for the criminal insane, authorized by legislature May 11th, 1905, and the first inmates received Dec. 17, 1912. Praise for much of which is due to Hon. John M. Wallton, who was speaker of the house.

In conclusion, Pennsylvania is today the best governed state in the union. In addition to her great legislation for labor she repealed her personal tax

law in 1867. Since that date no farmer, laborer or person, excepting those having money at interest or stock in a corporation, has paid a cent of state tax, and with all her great and present generous care of the insane, large appropriations for education, roads, health and charity, is clear of debt since 1913 and has today a nice surplus in the treasury. Truly, great the state and great her sons.

